

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RABAT 04064 281136Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /077 W
----- 043504

R 281025Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9309

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 4064

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MO, MX, PINT (HERSHBERG, ABRAHAM)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MOROCCO OF RABBI ABRAHAM HERSHBERG

REF: MEXICO CITY 8160, RABAT 2647

1. SUMMARY: GRAND RABBI OF MEXICO ABRAHAM HERSHBERG MADE PRIVATE VISIT TO MOROCCO JULY 15-22 AS PART OF TRIP TO EUROPE AND ARAB WORLD. PRIMARY AIM WAS TO DEVELOP HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN PROJECTED CONFERENCE ON "PEACE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY" NOVEMBER 15 IN MEXICO CITY. WHILE NOT ACHIEVING SELF-DECLARED AIM OF MEETING KING HASSAN, HERSHBERG RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE PUBLICITY INCLUDING INTERVIEW WITH HEAD OF SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN-MAROC SOIR. HE ALSO MET WITH SEVERAL LEADERS OF MOROCCAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND ARAB AMBASSADORS. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RABAT 04064 281136Z

2. RABBI HERSHBERG, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, IS PRESIDENT OF

"INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PEACE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY" AND HEAD OF ORTHODOX JEWISH RABBIS IN LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING 13 OF MOROCCAN JEWISH ORIGIN. ARRIVING IN RABAT JULY 15, HE CALLED AT EMBASSY AND RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM AMBASSADOR AND STAFF MEMBERS. EMBASSY PUT HIM IN CONTACT WITH MOROCCAN JEWISH AND MOSLEM NON-GOVERNMENTAL PERSONALITIES.

3. IN PRINCIPAL MEDIA EVENT, HERSHBERG WAS INTERVIEWED BY MOULAY AHMED ALAOUI, DIRECTOR OF SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN-MAROC SOIR. HERSHBERG REPORTED AS STATING HE WISHED TO COMMUNICATE TO KING HASSAN II "HIS RECOGNITION AND GRATITUDE FOR THE GENEROUS DECISION TAKEN AUTHORIZING MOROCCAN JEWS TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY, EVEN THOSE WHO HAD EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL." THIS DECISION HAD BEEN WIDELY NOTED IN LATIN AMERICAN AND MEXICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES, HE ADDED. RABBI WENT ON TO PRAISE MOROCCO FOR ITS NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES AND RECALLED MOHAMMED V'S OPPOSITION TO VICHYITE ANTI-SEMITIC DECREES, AS WELL AS EARLIER HAVEN EXTENDED TO JEWISH REFUGEES FROM SPANISH INQUISITION. EMIGRE MOROCCAN JEWS TODAY MAINTAINED THEIR TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS AND EVEN MOROCCAN PASSPORTS, RABBI QUOTED AS SAYING. HE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO PRESENT KING AN ILLUMINATED BIBLE AS A TOKEN OF THANKS FOR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF MOROCCAN JEWS.

4. HERSHBERG ALSO VISITED CASABLANCA AND MARRAKECH, WHERE HE MET LEADERS OF RESPECTIVE MOROCCAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS MOSLEM OFFICIALS. HE PAID RESPECTS AT MAUSOLEUM OF MOHAMMED V AND, LIKE EARLIER GROUP OF AMERICAN RABBIS (REFTEL B), WAS PERMITTED TO VISIT MOSQUE, A SIGNAL HONOR FOR NON-MUSLIM.

5. TWO MOROCCANS WERE SUGGESTED TO RABBI BY MOROCCAN CONTACTS AS POSSIBLE NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO PLANNED CONFERENCE (SAID BY HERSHBERG TO BE UNDER CO-SPONSORSHIP OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA); MOHAMED EL FASSI, FORMER RECTOR OF MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION, AND SOMETIME MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO; AND PROFESSOR ABDELAZIZ BEN ABDALLAH, DIRECTOR OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RABAT 04064 281136Z

MOROCCO'S ARABIZATION PROGRAM.

6. HERSHBERG CHECKED IN WITH EMBASSIES OF ARAB COUNTRIES HE WAS STILL TO VISIT, INCLUDING TUNISIA, EGYPT AND SYRIA. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, AS COVERED IN PRESS, GAVE HIM PROFUSE WELCOME AND STATED THAT MOROCCAN JEWS FULLY WELCOME TO VISIT EGYPT AT ANY TIME. RABBI DROPPED PLANNED VISIT TO ALGIERS AT BEHEST OF ALAOUI.

7. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND KING EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO
SEE RABBI IF LATTER COULD EXTEND HIS STAY, BUT RABBI FELT
UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF TIGHT TRAVEL SCHEDULE. WARM
WELCOME RECEIVED BY RABBI IS IN KEEPING WITH THAT ENJOYED
BY ABOVE-MENTIONED AMERICAN RABBIS.
ANDERSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RABAT04064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-0878
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760713/aaaaalhr.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 8160, 76 RABAT 2647
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO MOROCCO OF RABBI ABRAHAM HERSHBERG
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MO, MX, (HERSHBERG, ABRAHAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006